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PATENT
2224-0193P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patentee: Hiroshi TAKAHASHI et al.

Patent No.: 6,788,368 B2

Issue Date: September 7, 2004

For: TRANSMITTABLE LIGHT-SCATTERING SHEET AND
LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

ATTN: CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTIONS BRANCH

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.322

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 3, 2004

Sir:

The Office is respectfully requested to expeditiously consider the attached Certificate of Correction form. This Certificate of Correction form sets forth claims 18-21, which correspond to claims 22-25 in the application.

In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner stated that the allowed claims are 1-14 and 16-18. In the detailed action at page 2 of the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner states "Claims 19-25 have been cancelled." Upon discussing allowable subject matter, the Examiner states "Claims 1-14 and 16-18 are allowed."

Patentees respectfully note that the application as originally filed on November 23, 2001, presented claims 1-24 for the Examiner's consideration. On February 3, 2003, the Examiner issued an election/restriction requirement that divided the

Certificate

DEC 08 2004

of Correction

13 DEC 2004



claims into the following two groups:

Claims 19-21 drawn to a method of making a semiconductor device; and

Claims 1-18 and 22-24 drawn to a semiconductor device.

Also, Patentees note that claims 22-24 depend upon claim 1 and these claims became instantly allowable upon the allowance of claim 1.

Claim 25, which was presented on August 8, 2003, also depends upon claim 1 and became instantly allowable upon allowance of claim 1.

In the Reply of March 5, 2003, the Patentees elected group II (Claims 1-18 and 22-24) for examination on the merits. Accordingly, the allowed claims should have been claims 1-14, 16-18 and 22-25. Also, claim 15 had been cancelled and its subject matter had been incorporated into claim 1 in the Reply of August 8, 2003.

Further, on December 3, 2003, the Patentees sent a Letter to the Examiner entitled "Comments on Examiners Reasons for Allowance" requesting that the Examiner indicate the allowability of all the elected claims. However, the Examiner failed to act on this Letter.

Accordingly, U.S. Patent 6,788,368 failed to present claims 22-25, which should have appeared in the patent as claims 18-21. Accordingly, the Patentees respectfully request an expedited issuance of a Certificate of Correction due to the USPTO's mistake.

Since this Certificate of Correction is being filed in order

to correct an error that was clearly made by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the issuance of a Certificate of Correction

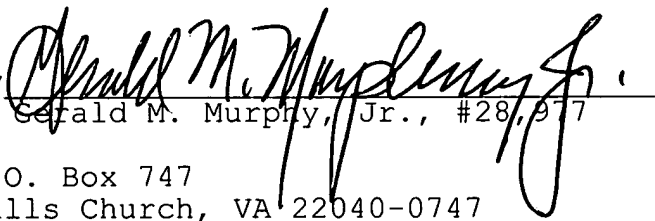
under 35 U.S.C. § 254 without charge to the patentee is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is required. However, if there are any fees chargeable, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000


GMM/REG/jao
2224-0193P

Attachment: Certificate of Correction (Form PTO-1050)
Notice of Allowability
Reply to Restriction Requirement dated March 5, 2003
Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 dated August 8, 2003
Comments on Examiners Reasons for Allowance dated December 3, 2003

(Also Form PTO-1050)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,788,368 B2

DATED : September 7, 2004

INVENTOR(S): Takahashi et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Add the following allowed claims:

18. A reflective liquid crystal display unit which comprises a liquid crystal cell having a liquid crystal sealed therein, a reflecting means for reflecting an incident light disposed behind the liquid crystal cell, and the light-scattering sheet recited in Claim 1 disposed forwardly of the reflecting means.

19. The reflective liquid crystal display unit according to claim 18, wherein a polarizing plate is disposed forwardly of the liquid crystal cell, and the light-scattering sheet recited in Claim 1 is disposed between the liquid crystal cell and the polarizing plate.

20. The reflective liquid crystal display unit according to claim 18, which comprises a liquid crystal cell having a liquid crystal sealed therein, a reflecting means for reflecting an incident light disposed on one side of the liquid crystal cell, a polarizing means for polarizing a reflective light is disposed on the other side of the liquid crystal cell, and the light-scattering sheet recited in Claim 1 disposed between the liquid crystal cell and the polarizing means.

21. The transmittal light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of polymers vary in refractive index.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

2224-0193P - GMM/REG/jao

B2

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

PTO BOX 16X

PATENT NO. 6,788,368 B2

No. of Additional copies

0

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

13 DEC 2004



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590

09/24/2003

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

STEVENSON, ANDRE C

ART UNIT

CLASS-SUBCLASS

2812

349-115000

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/979,524	11/23/2001	Hiroshi Takahashi	2224-0193P	6338

TITLE OF INVENTION: TRANSMISSION LIGHT-SCATTERING LAYER SHEET AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$300	\$1600	12/24/2003

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/979,524	11/23/2001	Hiroshi Takahashi	2224-0193P	6338
2292	7590	09/24/2003	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			STEVENSON, ANDRE C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2812

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003



Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/979,524	11/23/2001	Hiroshi Takahashi	2224-0193P	6338
2292	7590	09/24/2003	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			STEVENSON, ANDRE C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2812

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

Notice of Fee Increase on October 1, 2003

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after October 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on October 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 2004; Final Rule, 68 Fed. Reg. 41532, 41533, 41534 (July 14, 2003).

The current fee schedule is accessible from (<http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm>).

If the fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice of Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance is to be filed on or after October 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after October 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously-paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Effective October 1, 2003, 37 CFR 1.18 is amended by revising paragraphs (a) through (c) to read as set forth below.

Section 1.18 Patent post allowance (including issue) fees.

- (a) Issue fee for issuing each original or reissue patent, except a design or plant patent:
- By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$665.00
 - By other than a small entity..... \$1,330.00
- (b) Issue fee for issuing a design patent:
- By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$240.00
 - By other than a small entity..... \$480.00
- (c) Issue fee for issuing a plant patent:
- By a small entity (Sec. 1.27(a))..... \$320.00
 - By other than a small entity..... \$640.00

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.



Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/979,524

Examiner

Andre' C. Stevenson

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2812

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 16-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____ |
| 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____ | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Detailed Action

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 19 through 25 have been canceled.

? Given to Cl 19-21
canceled Cl 1-18, 22-24
25/1
canceled

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 through 14 and 16 through 18 are allowed.

Reason for Allowance

Claim #1

- Phase separation structure formed by spinodal decomposition from a liquid phase comprising the plurality of polymers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre C. Stevenson whose telephone number is (703) 308 6227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Art Unit: 2812

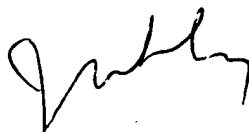
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling, can be reached on (703) 308 3325. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308 7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 1782.

Andre C. Stevenson

Art Unit 2812

09/18/03

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre C. Stevenson", is written over the typed name.

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/979,524

Applicant(s)/Patent Under

Reexamination
TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Andre' C. Stevenson

Art Unit

2812

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	DOCUMENT SOURCE **	
							APS	OTHER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	6452650 B1	Sep. 2002	Kengi Nakao	349	86	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B	6266113 B1	Jul. 2001	Osamu Yamazaki	349	115	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	C						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	D						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	E						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	J						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	K						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	L						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	M						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	DOCUMENT SOURCE **	
								APS	OTHER
<input type="checkbox"/>	N							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	O							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	P							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Q							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	R							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	S							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	T							<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		DOCUMENT (Including Author, Title Date, Source, and Pertinent Pages)	DOCUMENT SOURCE **	
			APS	OTHER
<input type="checkbox"/>	U		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	V		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	W		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	X		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 707.05(a).)

**APS encompasses any electronic search i.e. text, image, and Commercial Databases.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PTO-892 (Rev. 03-98)

Notice of References Cited

Part of Paper No. 0917



Sheet 1 of 1 (8/19/02)

Form PTO-1449

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2224-0193PAPPLICATION NO.
09/979,524**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
IN AN APPLICATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT
Hiroshi TAKASHI et al.FILING DATE
November 23, 2001GROUP
2871**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
<i>JS</i>	6,093,344	2000-07-25	Park et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
<i>JS</i>	198 28 630 A1	1999-01-07	GERMANY				

OTHER DOCUMENTS

(Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.S.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

GMM/las

PATENT
2224-0193P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroshi TAKAHASHI et al. Conf.: 6338

Appl. No.: 09/979,524 Group: 2812

Filed: November 23, 2001 Examiner: L. A. GURLEY

For: TRANSMITTABLE LIGHT-SCATTERING SHEET AND
LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL FORM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

March 5, 2003

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a Reply to Restriction/Election Requirement in the above-identified application.


- ☐ The enclosed document is being transmitted via the Certificate of Mailing provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.
- ☐ Petition for _____ () month(s) extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a). \$0.00 for the extension of time.
- ☒ No fee is required.
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$0.00 is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$0.00. A triplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Appl. No. 09/979,524

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #42,874
for Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

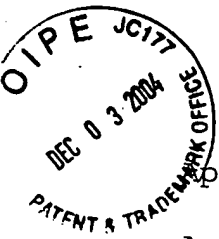
GMM/REG:jls
2224-0193P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment(s)

(Rev. 09/19/02)

PATENT
2224-0193P



IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroshi TAKAHASHI et al. Conf.: 6338
Appl. No.: 09/979,524 Group: 2812
Filed: November 23, 2001 Examiner: L. A. Gurley
For: TRANSMITTABLE LIGHT-SCATTERING SHEET
AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

March 5, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated February 3, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the invention into the following two groups:

Group I, claims 19-21, drawn to a method of making a semiconductor device;

Group II, claims 1-18 and 22-24, drawn to a semiconductor device.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group II, claims 1-18 and 22-24.

Rejoinder of the groups of the invention is proper because the light-scattering sheet of claim 1 of Group II and the process for producing a light-scattering sheet of claim 19 of Group I are so intimately related that no undue burden is placed upon the Examiner. That is, independent claim 19 contains all the limitations of independent claim 1 and a finding of allowability of independent claim 1 (of Group II) would also result in independent claim 19 (of Group I) to be instantly allowable.

Accordingly, examination of all of the claims of the invention on the merits is respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner chooses to not immediately rejoin the claims, Applicants submit that once allowable subject matter is found for the product claims, and providing the method of making claims include the same allowable subject matter, the Examiner should rejoin the claims. MPEP §821.04.


Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By  #42-874
for Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

GMM/REG:jls
2224-0193P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 01/02/02)

PATENT
2224-0193P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Hiroshi TAKAHASHI et al.	Conf.:	6338
Appl. No.:	09/979,524	Group:	2812
Filed:	November 23, 2001	Examiner:	A. Stevenson
For:	TRANSMITTABLE LIGHT-SCATTERING SHEET AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE		

LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL FORM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 8, 2003

Sir:

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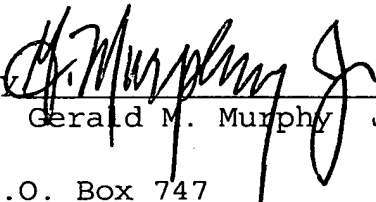
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Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

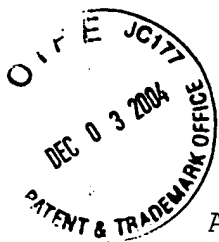
By 
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Attachment(s)

(Rev. 04/30/03)



PATENT
2224-0193P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroshi TAKAHASHI et al. Conf.: 6338
Appl. No.: 09/979,524 Group: 2812
Filed: November 23, 2001 Examiner: A. Stevenson
For: TRANSMITTABLE LIGHT-SCATTERING SHEET AND LIQUID
CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 8, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated May 8, 2003, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This reply includes the following:

- (1) Amendments to the Specification;
- (2) Amendments to the Claims; and
- (3) Remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 58 and 59 with the following paragraph:

--Cellulose acetate propionate (3 parts by weight) (acetylation degree:2.5%, propylation degree:45%, number-average molecular weight in terms of polystyrene:75000, manufactured by Eastman, Ltd., CAP-482-20) and 3 parts by weight of copolyester (fluorene-modified polyester, OPET; manufactured by Kanebo Co., Ltd., OP7-40) were dissolved in ~~84 parts~~ 94 parts by weight of THF. The solution was cast on a triacetylcellulose film with the use of wire bar #20, and the cast film was allowed to stand in an oven at a temperature of 60 °C for 2 minutes, and then THF was evaporated to form a coating layer having thickness of about 2 μ m. When the sheet of the coating layer was observed with a transmission optical microscope, the sheet had a droplet phase structure same as Example 4, in which two kinds of dispersion phases different in size were dispersed regularly with an average interphase distance. Moreover, the total light transmittance of the sheet was 93%.--

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as Follows:

ABSTRACT

The reflective liquid crystal display device comprises a polarizing plate 1 disposed forwardly of ~~the~~ a liquid crystal cell 6, a ~~reflecting means~~ 5 reflector which is disposed on backside of the liquid crystal cell and reflects an incident light, and a light-scattering sheet 2 which is disposed forwardly of ~~reflecting means~~ the reflector and scatters the incident light isotopically. The light-scattering sheet can be prepared with the use of a spinodal decomposition method ~~comprising by~~ of coating a mixture liquid containing a plurality of polymers varying in refractive index on a transparent support and evaporating or removing a solvent to form a light-scattering layer having a droplet phase structure. The light-scattering layer includes a light-scattering layer showing a maximum intensity of the scattered-light at scattering ~~angle~~ angles of 3 to 40°, and a light-scattering layer showing maximums intensity of the scattered-light respectively at smaller ~~angle~~ angles of 2 to 20° and larger angle θ_b .

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A transmittable light-scattering sheet which comprises a light-scattering layer composed of a plurality of polymers varying in refractive index and having at least a droplet phase structure, wherein the layer has a phase separation structure formed by spinodal decomposition from a liquid phase comprising the plurality of polymers.

2. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein an incident light is diffused isotropically, and a maximum value of scattered light intensity appears at a scattering angle of 3 to 40°.

3. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein an average diameter of droplets in the droplet phase structure is 0.1 to 20 μm .

4. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein an average distance between droplet centers is 0.5 to 15 μm and a standard deviation of the average distance is 40 % or less of the average distance in the droplet phase structure.

5. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the proportion of droplets in the droplet phase structure is 30 to 70 volume % based on the whole light-scattering layer.

6. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1 which comprises a light-scattering layer scattering an incident light isotropically, wherein the light-scattering layer expresses maximum values of a scattered light intensity at two scattering angles.

7. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 6, wherein a smaller angle θ_a of the maximum value is 2 to 20° in the scattered light intensity.

8. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 6, the ratio of a smaller angle θ_a to a larger angle θ_b of maximum values is $\theta_b/\theta_a = 1.5$ to 10.

9. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 6, wherein the light-scattering layer has

at least a droplet or an island-in an ocean phase structure, and a distribution of particle size of dispersed phase in the phase structure has two peaks at different average particle sizes.

10. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein a total light transmittance is 70 to 100 %.

11. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein a difference between refractive indexes of **a the** plurality of polymers is 0.01 to 0.2.

12. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein **a the** plurality of polymers comprises a first polymer and a second polymer selected from a styrenic resin, a (meth)acrylic resin, a vinyl ester-series resins, a vinyl ether-series resin, a halogen-containing resin, an alicyclic olefinic resin, a polycarbonate-series resin, a polyester-series resin, a polyamide-series resin, a silicone-series resin, a cellulose derivative and a rubber or an elastomer, and the ratio of the first polymer to the second polymer is the former/the latter = 10/90 to 90/10 (weight ratio).

13. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein at least one polymer comprises ~~s~~ a cellulose ester.

14. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein at least one polymer comprises a cellulose acetate.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, which comprises a transparent support and the light-scattering layer laminated on at least one side of the transparent support.

17. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 16, wherein the transparent support is optically isotropic.

18. (Currently Amended) **A The** transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 16, wherein the transparent support comprises cellulose acetate film.

19. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a light-scattering sheet, which comprises removing or evaporating a solvent from a liquid mixture composed of a plurality of polymers varying in refractive index to form a light-scattering layer having at least a droplet phase structure due to spinodal decomposition.

20. (Withdrawn) **A The** process according to Claim 19, which comprises applying the liquid mixture on a transparent support and removing a solvent in the liquid mixture to form a phase separation structure.

21. (Withdrawn) **A The** process according to Claim 19, which comprises applying a solution, in which a plurality of polymers varying in refractive index is dissolved homogenously, on a cellulose acetate film coated with a coating layer having solvent-resistance, and removing a solvent in the solution to form a droplet phase structure due to spinodal decomposition.

22. (Currently Amended) A reflective liquid crystal display unit which comprises a liquid crystal cell having a liquid crystal sealed therein, a reflecting means for reflecting an incident light disposed behind the liquid crystal cell, and **a the** light-scattering

sheet recited in Claim 1 disposed forwardly of the reflecting means.

23. (Currently Amended) **A The** reflective liquid crystal display unit according to Claim 22, wherein a polarizing plate is disposed forwardly of the liquid crystal cell, and **a the** light-scattering sheet recited in Claim 1 is disposed between the liquid crystal cell and the polarizing plate.

24. (Currently Amended) **A The** reflective liquid crystal display unit according to Claim 22, which comprises a liquid crystal cell having a liquid crystal sealed therein, a reflecting means for reflecting an incident light disposed on one side of the liquid crystal cell, a polarizing means for polarizing an reflective light is disposed on the other side of the liquid crystal cell, and **a the** light-scattering sheet recited in Claim 1 disposed between the liquid crystal cell and the polarizing means.

25. (New) The transmittable light-scattering sheet according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of polymers vary in refractive index.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Amendments to the Specification

The amendments to the specification correct a minor error and find support at page 58, line 6 of the originally filed specification. The amendments to the abstract correct minor errors.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 and 16-25 are pending in the application. Applicants elected claims 1-18 and 22-24 with traverse in the paper filed March 5, 2003. Claims 1-18 stand rejected.

Claim 15 is cancelled by this amendment. The amendments to claim 1 incorporate subject matter from cancelled claim 15. Claim 25 sets forth subject matter from cancelled claim 15. The amendments to claims 2-14 and 16-18 and 20-24 improve the language of these claims without reducing their scope.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Over Yamazaki In View Of Nakao

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Yamazaki (U.S. Patent 6,266,113 B1) in View Of Nakao (U.S. Patent 6,452,650 B1). Applicants traverse.

The Present Invention And Its Advantages

The present invention pertains to a novel transmittable light scattering sheet. Claim 1 sets forth: "A transmittable light-scattering sheet which comprises a light-scattering layer composed of a plurality of polymers varying in refractive index and having at least a droplet phase structure, wherein the layer has a phase separation structure formed by spinodal decomposition from a liquid phase comprising the plurality of polymers."

The advantages of the inventive technology include strong reflected light intensities at specific light scattering angles. The invention yields high directionalities and brightness of the display surface over a wide angle range. See Tables 1 and 2 at pages 56 and 63 of the specification.

Also, the spinodal decomposition results in unique properties. This is discussed in the paragraph starting at page 29, line 20 of the specification, which states:

Further, since the light-scattering layer (2) is formed by spinodal decomposition via evaporation of solvent from liquid phase comprising a plurality of polymers (liquid phase such as mixed solution or liquid mixture, and solution in ordinary temperature), it is considered that,

in the process of evaporating solvent, the phase separation structure, in which average distance between domains has two kinds of regularities owing to the difference in compatibility of the constituting polymer component with substrate material, is formed. When such transmittable light-scattering sheets are used, the incident light is substantially isotropically scattered and high directionality and diffusibility together can be imparted to the transmitted scattered light.

Therefore, the invention produces unique light scattering properties that represent a fundamental improvement over the conventional art.

Distinctions Of The Invention Over Yamazaki and Nakao

Yamazaki pertains to a reflection type liquid crystal display device. The technology of Yamazaki is typified by claim 1, which states:

1. In a reflection type liquid crystal display device comprising a light modulation layer disposed between a pair of electrodes, at least one of which is transparent electrode, the light modulation layer being controlled to take on one of a light scattering state and light transmitting state in accordance with a voltage applied between the electrodes; at least one color separation layer mounted at the back of the light modulation layer; and a reflection layer mounted at the back of the color separation layer; wherein the color separation layer comprises one of a cholesteric liquid crystal polymer layer for reflecting light within a predetermined wavelength range and a dielectric multi-layered thin film for transmitting a light within a predetermined wavelength range and reflecting light outside the predetermined wavelength range.

The operation of this type of display is discussed by Yamazaki at column 3, lines 26-36, which states:

In the case of the reflection type liquid crystal display device having the structure in which the droplet type polymer dispersed type liquid crystal layer is used as the light modulation layer and in which the interference filter and the mirror layer as the reflection layer are arranged at the back, with no application of voltage (i.e., in the transparent state), the liquid crystal molecules can be arrayed not in the field direction but at an angle to cause an inconsistency between the longitudinal refractive index of the liquid crystal molecules and the refractive index of the polymer thereby to leave a slight dispersion. As a result, the regularly reflected light is diffused with a width to raise a problem in that the invisible range is widened, and the diffused color is mixed with the color having passed through the color separation layer to raise the problem that the color purity drops.

Yamazaki modulates light as discussed at column 43, lines 32-38, which states:

The light modulation layer comes, when the voltage is not applied, into a scattered state like the paper white, and, when applied, into a highly transparent state so that an arbitrary color such as the red, blue or green color can be reconstructed as a highly pure color to provide an excellent contrast by the combined action of the color separation layer and the reflection layer.

Yamazaki fails to disclose a composition of a plurality of polymers varying in refractive index and having at least a droplet phase structure. The Examiner admits to the failings of Yamazaki at page 2, lines 17-19 of the Office Action. The Examiner then tries to apply the teaching of Nakao to address the failings of Yamazaki.

The technology of Nakao is typified by claim 1 of the patent,
which states:

1. A polymer dispersion type liquid crystal display element comprising:

a pair of substrates, one of the substrates being an active matrix substrate having thin film transistors formed thereon;

an electrode formed on an opposite surface of each of the substrates;

polymers;

liquid crystal droplets being deformed into a compressed structure compressed in a cell gap direction; and

a polymer-liquid crystal complex held between the pair of substrates, the polymer-liquid crystal complex comprising the polymers and the liquid crystal droplets dispersed in the polymers;

wherein:

an amount of deformation of the liquid crystal droplets is set to be in range in which a phenomenon of liquid crystal molecules rising up in the cell gap direction is not caused by excluded volume effects of the liquid crystals;

when an anchoring strength is represented by a driving voltage V_{90} , where V_{90} is a driving voltage at a transmittance of 90%, the anchoring strength being an index showing the interaction of the polymers and liquid crystal at the phase boundary between the liquid crystal and the polymers, the anchoring strength is such that the driving voltage V_{90} is in the range of about 7.5 V to about 12.5 V; and

a deformation rate of the liquid crystal droplets is 20% or lower.

Nakao describes "a plurality of polymer liquid crystal complex layers are laminated, so that the liquid crystals in each layer can be aligned in parallel with the substrates and also the

orientations of the liquid crystals aligned in a plane parallel with the substrates can be made different for each of the layers." See Nakao at column 48, lines 41-45. With regard to the average diameter of the liquid crystal droplet, Nakao states "The smaller the particle diameter of the liquid crystals droplets becomes, the further the scattering of light increases in intensity, so it is desirable for application to the scattering type liquid crystal display element that the liquid crystal droplets have a size of 2 μm or less." See Nakao at column 19, lines 44-49. Nakao discusses the distance between liquid crystal droplets at column 36, lines 1-5, stating "when the polymer dispersion type liquid crystal display element thus produced was measured with a microscope on an average mesh size (gaps between liquid crystal droplets of an average mesh size aligned in parallel with the plane of the substrates), the average mesh gap was 1.2 μm ." Nakao at column 36, lines 6-10 discusses alignment, stating "the liquid crystal molecules allowed to be fully aligned in parallel to the electric field by applying 10V, 30Hz of rectangular waves to the transference electrodes 13, 14 of the polymer dispersion type liquid crystal element." Nakao at column 48, lines 62-63 states: "A layered product 127 is held via the transparent glass substrates."

Finally, Nakao at column 5, lines 22-25 purports to produce a "polymer dispersion type liquid crystal display element capable of

providing improved scattering characteristics without any deterioration of display characteristics . . ."

Both Yamazaki and Nakao fail to disclose or suggest spinodal decomposition from the liquid phase comprising a plurality of polymers for forming the phase separation structure.

That is, the droplet phase of both Yamazaki and Nakao are obtained by forming a polymer-liquid crystal complex of photopolymerizable monomers and liquid crystalline materials to photopolymerize only the monomers. Yamazaki and Nakao both fail to disclose spinodal decomposition from the liquid phase. The present invention's mechanism for forming the droplet phase is therefore fundamentally different from that of Yamazaki or Nakao. As a result, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by the teachings of Yamazaki and Nakao to produce a claimed embodiment of the invention. Thus a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made over Yamazaki and Nakao.

Further, even if one assumes *arguendo* that Yamazaki and Nakao can be combined to allege *prima facie* obviousness, this obviousness would be rebutted by unexpected results.

The droplet phase structure of Yamazaki and Nakao are formed by photopolymerizing monomers, and the liquid crystalline materials are dispersed randomly in a photopolymerized polymer. Since the interphase distance of the liquid crystals (a dispersed phase)

cannot be precisely controlled, a phase separation structure having regularities in the average distance between domains could not form.

The structures of Yamazaki and Nakao therefore correspond to Comparative Examples 1-3 set forth at pages 53, 59 and 60 of the specification. Similar to Yamazaki and Nakao, the sheets of Comparative Examples 1-3 have random droplet phase structures. Tables 1 and 2 at pages 56 and 63 of the specification show that Yamazaki and Nakao cannot realize a strong reflected light intensity at the specific light scattering angles, high directionalities and brightness of the display surface over the wide angle range.

Further, In Nakao and Yamazaki the liquid crystalline materials are aligned in a predetermined direction by applying a voltage. The process of orientation is therefore complicated and requires equipment for applying voltage.

On the other hand, the invention forms a sheet by spinodal decomposition from the liquid phase to form a phase structure having regularities in average distance between domains. The inventive sheet can exhibit both an isotropic incident light scattering characteristic and a high directionality or diffusibility to transmitted scattered light. This is discussed in the paragraph starting at page 29, line 20 of the specification.

Further, Tables 1 and 2 at pages 56 and 63 of the specification show a strong reflected light intensity at specific light scattering angles, high directionalities, and brightness of the display surface over a wide angle range. Thus the advantages are clear.

As has been shown, Yamazaki and Nakao fail to render the present invention *prima facie* obvious. Further, unexpected results would fully rebut any obviousness that could be alleged. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 23, 2001 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed May 8, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 19, 2002.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at

Appl. No. 09/979,524


the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977


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2224-0193P-

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Attachment(s):

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2224-0193P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	TAKAHASHI et al.	Conf.:	6338
Appl. No.:	09/979,524	Group:	2812
Filed:	November 23, 2001	Examiner:	STEVENSON, A.C.
For:	TRANSMISSION LIGHT-SCATTERING LAYER SHEET AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY		

LARGE ENTITY TRANSMITTAL FORM

December 3, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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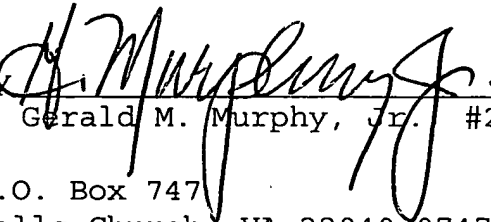
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						TOTAL	\$0.00


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Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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2224-0193P

Attachment(s)

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PATENT
2224-0193P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	TAKAHASHI et al.	Conf.:	6338
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Filed:	November 23, 2001	Examiner:	STEVENSON, A. C.
For:	TRANSMISSION LIGHT-SCATTERING LAYER SHEET AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY		

COMMENTS ON EXAMINERS REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MS AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 3, 2003

Sir:

In connection to the Notice of Allowability dated September 24, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Telephonic Interview with the Examiner

The Applicants thank the Examiner for graciously conducting a telephonic interview with the Applicants' representative on November 20, 2003. During the telephonic interview, the anomalies in the enumeration of allowed claims were discussed. It was agreed that this paper would be filed as a result of the interview.

Status of the Claims

In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner stated that the allowed claims are 1-14 and 16-18. In the detailed action at page 2 of the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner states: "Claims 19-25 have been cancelled." Upon discussing allowable subject matter, the Examiner states: "Claims 1-14 and 16-18 are allowed."

Applicants respectfully note that the application as originally filed on November 23, 2001, presented claims 1-24 for the Examiner's consideration. On February 3, 2003, the Examiner issued an Office Action containing an election/restriction requirement that divided the claims into the following two groups:

- I. Claims 19-21 drawn to a method of making a semiconductor device, and
- II. Claims 1-18 and 22-24 drawn to a semiconductor device.

Also, Applicants note that claims 22-24 depend upon claim 1 and these claims are instantly allowable if claim 1 is found to be allowable.

Claim 25, which was presented on August 8, 2003, also depends upon claim 1 and therefore becomes instantly allowable if claim 1 is found to be allowable.

In the Reply of March 5, 2003, the Applicants elected group II (Claims 1-18 and 22-24) for examination on the merits.

Accordingly, the allowed claims should be 1-14, 16-18 and 22-25. Also, claim 15 has been cancelled and its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1 in the Reply of August 8, 2003.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Supplemental Notice Of Allowability indicating allowed claims in accordance with group II.

Conclusion

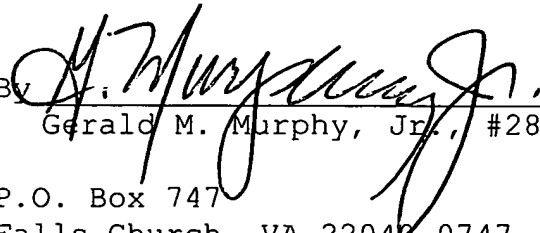
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Appl. No. 09/979,524


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Respectfully submitted,

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